

St. John's, Bem
United Church
Of Christ

The Scoop!

December, 2009

"...no matter who you
are or where you are
on life's journey, you
are welcome here in
the United Church
of Christ..."

From the Pastor's Keyboard...

"Christ is Born- in Thee"

*"Though Christ a thousand times in Bethlehem be born;
If he is not born in thee, thy soul is still forlorn"*

These are the lyrics to an old German hymn attributed to Johann Scheffler, a scientist/physician who later became a priest and missionary in the 1600s. Though philosophers have debated the anthropomorphic nature of this quote, it holds certain truths within it that are especially relevant for us this Advent Season.

We gather together for four Sundays to prepare the way to celebrate the coming of the LORD; then just as quickly as it arrived, it is over. How is our world, our life different by celebrating this annual ritual? How does Christ's birth change things in our world?

The truth of the matter is that if we are just remembering something that happened 2009 years ago, our world will not change very much. If Christmas is "just" a birthday party, "just" an annual recognition of a historical event, then Christmas will remain "just" a time for selfishness, greed, hectic-ness, and disregard for what really matters in life.

For Christmas to truly be meaningful in our lives, we need to take the Advent journey seriously. For Christ to be born within us; for thy soul to no longer be forlorn; we need to take the Advent journey, opening ourselves up daily to new ways that Christ is realized in our hearts, in our actions, in our souls.

How can you do that? Instead of concentrating on the ostentatious nature of the season, spend time each day thinking about how Christ is born in you. Commit a random act of kindness each day. Pay for the food order for the person behind you at the drive up window. Let someone else get the last word for a change. Read to a child. Make a commitment and come to church each of the four Sundays in Advent. Whatever you do, let your guard down and let Christ in; and prepare your soul to let Christ be born in thee this Advent Season

-Pastor Rick

St. John's United Church of Christ, Bem

1944 Bem Church Road; Owensville, MO 65066

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Organist: Jamie Schultz

Custodian: Nancy Kohrmann

Cemetery Sexton: Lee Kreter

Sunday School Coordinator: Suzan Wilson

Visual Arts Coordinators: The Aytes Family

WORM FARMING IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Kei Region of South Africa is a predominantly rural area, consisting of many small villages which dot the landscape. For the past few years, the churches of the United Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) have been attempting to help their communities grow their own vegetables through the use of 'tunnel' farming.

The tunnels systems have been great for a number of reasons. One can grow more vegetables per square meter in a tunnel than in a conventional garden. By growing the veggies within a tunnel, the issue of insects is greatly reduced. Also, the tunnel keeps most of the dirt and dust off the plants so that produce can be sold directly from the tunnel and does not need to be cleaned or washed first. Finally the application of water directly to each plant, as opposed to broadcast irrigation in which water is sprayed over a large area, helps in water conservation.

However, one of the drawbacks of the tunnels is that, in the past, communities had to rely on water soluble chemical fertilizers to grow their vegetables. This has been problematic because recent increases in the price of petroleum based products have made chemical fertilizers very expensive.

Recently, however, 'worm farming' has been introduced at one of the tunnel projects. This is a process that produces both organic fertilizers and pesticides using materials freely available and abundant in rural communities. However, the worms used in the farms are not your ordinary earth worm. These farms use worms known as "red wigglers" and they are especially used for composting. Worm farming involves building a large bin in which to house the worms, which is then filled with dried animal manure, straw and grass, paper and cardboard, and most kinds of kitchen waste. The worms eat the waste, creating both rich compost and a liquid, sometimes referred to as 'tea'. The compost is added to the soil, greatly increasing the soils fertility. And most importantly, the 'tea' can be mixed with water and used daily to give the plants all the nutrients they need, or can be used undiluted to keep insects away.

By using worms, communities are able to grow vegetables organically, using materials that are readily available and at the same time caring for their environment. The first worm farm has been placed at ***Peelton Congregational Church*** which currently has three veggie tunnels. Using this project as an example, the Kei Region is hoping to expand worm farming to other churches and communities which they serve.

This project has been spearheaded by Revs. Jon and Dawn Barnes, who are UCC missionaries with the Kei Regional Council of the ***United Congregational Church of Southern Africa***. They serve as development officers in the Kei region of South Africa. Their ability to be in ministry in this way is a direct result of our gifts to ***Our Church's Wider Mission!*** When we give to ***Our Church's Wider Mission***, 75% of it stays right here in Missouri; but the other 25% goes to the UCC Church House in Cleveland, enabling mission work in 83 countries across the world; including increased sustainability and crop yield through worm farming!

NOBBY'S CHRISTMAS DINNER/MASONIC BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Two great meals in one weekend; for two great causes! On Saturday morning, 12/5 the Masonic Lodge will hold their Breakfast with Santa from 7:00am-10:00am. Proceeds benefit Operation Christmas. Then Sunday evening 12/6 from 4:00-7:00pm Nobby Ota will host his 4th annual Asian Meal at Farmer's Merchant Café; proceeds benefit Helping Hands Food Pantry!

THE CHRISTMAS FUND- BEM CHURCH MISSION OF THE MONTH

Our joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called to share widely, through our witness and gifts, both to loved ones and to distant neighbors.

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross, one of four Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ, is an important way of sharing our joy at God's renewing and life-giving grace. The Offering, which is administered by the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance of the Pension Boards on behalf of the UCC, is an expression of joy and gratitude to, and for, those who serve the church.

Gifts to *The Christmas Fund* help provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to the families of clergy and lay employees and Christmas Gift Checks to hundreds of annuitants.

When the United Church of Christ celebrated 50 years of ministry in 2007, *The Christmas Fund* celebrated 105 years of continuous ministry. Facts taken from a 1953 publication indicate that: "In 1902, a little money was collected and special Christmas gifts were sent to ten older ministers." That article reports that \$121,054 was received for *The Christmas Fund* in 1952.

A little more than 50 years later, in 2008 *The Christmas Fund* received \$1,600,000 and nearly 1,500 families were assisted. Our goal is to be able to provide at least \$1,650,000 in assistance from the 2009 appeal. Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. The requests for Ministerial Assistance provided by *The Christmas Fund* are greater than at any point in recent history.

The Christmas Fund is the Bem Church Mission of the Month. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care. Please give generously to our Mission of the Month: *The Christmas Fund*.

THE SHARING TABLE

In an effort to try to meet the needs of our community, the Mission and Social Concerns Committee has set up *The Sharing Table* in the Sofa Room. Helping and sharing with each other in the good times and the difficult times makes us even more the body of Christ. At this table you will find the cart for collecting Best Choice & Campbell's Soup labels; Box Tops for Education coupons; eyeglasses; empty prescription bottles; and cancelled stamps. The Coupon Corner is here, the collection box for recycling your used ink jet cartridges, and you can leave your pull tabs there as well.

RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

The Mission and Social Concerns Committee of Bem Church is working to respond to the needs of our community through Helping Hands Food Pantry! We are currently collecting toothpaste for distribution at Helping Hands. Our goal is to collect 300 tubes of toothpaste over the next few months, to meet the needs of the 300 clients they serve monthly. Pick up an extra tube of toothpaste next time you are at the store; and bring it to church next Sunday!

For a copy of the St. John's, Bem prayer list email Pastor Rick or call the church office!

SCRIPTURES FOR DECEMBER

During the four Sundays of Advent, we will have a special sermon series to prepare us for Christmas. We will be focusing on the ways we know Jesus: Emmanuel, Word of God, Example and Lord. The special focus each Sunday will prepare our hearts for Jesus' birth in our lives and in our hearts once more. These are the scripture readings and topics we will be exploring in worship during the month of December. Read ahead!

November 29th- 1st Sunday of Advent Confirmation Sunday

Ways we know Jesus- "Emmanuel"

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalter Lesson: Psalm 126
Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18-23

December 6th- 2nd Sunday of Advent Confirmands' First Communion

Ways we Know Jesus- "Word of God"

Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 33:17-23
Psalter Lesson: Psalm 113
Gospel Lesson: John 1:1-18

December 13th- 3rd Sunday of Advent

Ways we Know Jesus- "Example"

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 103:1-14
Gospel Lessons: Matthew 9:35-36;
Luke 23:33-34; John 13:1-5, 12-17

December 20th- 4th Sunday of Advent

Ways we know Jesus- "Lord"

Psalter Lesson: Psalm 100
Gospel Lesson: Matthew 7:21-27
Epistle Lesson: Philippians 2:1-11

Christmas Eve Services at Bem Church:

5:00pm- Children and family themed service,
with cookie communion and carols

11:00pm- Altar communion, lessons and carols,
singing "Silent Night" by candlelight

December 24, 2009

December 27th- Proclaiming Christ "Clothes Horses"

Hebrew Scripture: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalter Lesson: Psalm 148
Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:41-52
Epistle Lesson: Colossians 3:12-17

BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY-DECEMBER 13TH!

December 13th will be "Bring a Friend Sunday". Everyone is invited and encouraged to bring a friend to worship with you that morning. Start thinking now about who to invite. Many of our friends and co-workers would love to come to church with us; but they are not going to ask you if they can come. You need to invite them! Bring a friend to church!

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The Owensville/Rosebud Ministerial Alliance will host the annual ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 22; 6:30pm at St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Owensville.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAYS

The Confirmation Class of 2009 will present their testimonies of faith in worship on Sunday, November 22. Confirmation Sunday will be November 29; their First Communion as confirmed members of Bem Church will be December 6. Come celebrate with us!

POINSETTAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Bem Church will once again be adorning the Sanctuary with Poinsettias for Christmas. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, you may do so using the white envelopes in the pew racks on Sunday mornings, or by sending a check to the church office. Each plant is \$10; and be sure to note who it is in honor/memory of, as well as who it is from. Questions? Call Carole in the church office.

PAIRS AND SPARES MEETING DECEMBER 13

The Pairs and Spares Fellowship Group at Bem Church will meet for lunch on the second Sunday this month; December 13th. This will be the Christmas meeting, and a carry in meal. We welcome all to come enjoy table fellowship with us as we celebrate the joys of the Christmas Season together.

In the past, we have had a Christmas gift exchange at our December meeting. However, instead of exchanging gifts, we will be celebrating the spirit of the season by making donations to Heifer Project International. We invite the rest of the congregation to participate in our Christmas mission as well. If you would like to donate to Heifer Project you may do so using one of the white envelopes in the pews, marking it "Pairs and Spares Heifer Project," and dropping it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Or, you can give your donation to a Paris and Spares member and we will forward it to Heifer Project International.

Our President, Hulda Eisenhauer, would like to say "thank you" to all the folks who helped with bingo at Gasconade Manor in the month of November. Pairs and Spares organized their Bingo fun all month long. Thank you to all who made this mission possible!

Don't forget; there are a lot of good books and puzzles waiting to be borrowed in the library room at church. Check them out sometime!

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP PLANS

December 5- Ringing the Bell outside Wal-Mart for the Salvation Army. 85% of the funds collected stay right here in our community to help those in need! Come work an hour shift and be a part of this great service project! Sign up sheets will be in church the Sundays before.

December 13- Youth Rally and Christmas Party at church 5:00-7:00pm

January 10- Trip to Lazertag or SkyZone after church!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS PARTY

We have had a great time gathering these past couple of months for fellowship and fun. In November we had a carry in meal and game night; we all enjoyed our time together. In December we are going to have a Christmas Party and cookie exchange! The date will be December 16th. Bring a dish to the a carry in meal, and cookies to share. Show off your favorite cookie recipe! Talk to Kim Oberle for details, and to let her know you will be joining in the fun! Kim's contact info: oberlerick@yahoo.com; 573.437.4776; or see her on Sunday!

BEM CHURCH CHOIR MINI CANTATA

The Bem Church Choir will be presenting a mini-cantata in church on Sunday, December 20th during worship at 10:00. They have picked out a half-dozen songs that they will be offering to God's glory as we celebrate this joyous season of Christ's anticipated birth. Come praise God along with our Choir that Sunday!

We need more voices! You are invited to participate in praising the Savior's birth with us! The Choir will be practicing every Monday evening at 7:00pm between now and then. Come be a part of this joyous celebration of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love! Questions? Talk to Jamie Schultz.

Do you receive the UCC daily devotional each morning via email? If not, talk to Pastor Rick or visit www.ucc.org and click on the "Daily Devotional" tab!

MISSION COMMITTEE OPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTMAS

Looking For a great gift idea? The Mission and Social Concerns Committee of Bem Church has a few ideas for you; and they support our mission work as well! If you have any questions about either of these great gift ideas, talk to Nancy Carl or Nancy Kohrmann.

Rada Knives- We will be placing another order for Rada Knives on December 4th. These great, high quality knives make great Christmas gifts, and also come in handy around the house during the holidays. Talk to Nancy Kohrmann for a catalog, or to place an order before December 4th.

Lydia's House Pins- We received a new shipment of Lydia's House pins recently. Tom and Nancy Kohrmann are selling these after church as a fundraiser for Lydia's House. We have already sold over 45 pins! These pins make great Christmas gifts too; and they support this very beneficial cause, Lydia's House. Pins are \$16 each.

THE LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

You are invited to witness the majesty of the "Living Christmas Tree," a worship filled praise presentation celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This annual event will be held at First Baptist Church in Owensville December 12 at 6:00pm; and December 13 at 3:00 & 6:00pm. The theme for this year's "Living Christmas Tree" is "Glorious Impossible" and features the songs and carols of Keith and Kristyn Getty, Michael W. Smith, Stuart Townend and Babbie Mason. For more information, Call First Baptist Church at 543.437.2147.

FESTIVAL OF TREES

See unique specially themed Christmas trees at St. Peter's United Church of Christ's Family Festival of Trees. The Festival will take place December 4, 5, 6; 11, 12, 13; 18, 19 & 20. Fridays the festival will be open from 5:00-8:00pm; Saturdays from 2:00-5:00pm; and Sundays from 12:00-3:00pm at St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Washington, Missouri 20 East 5th Street at Market. There will be refreshments, music and hospitality. Vote for your favorite tree by placing non-perishable food items under the tree to support the local food pantry. For more information, visit www.stpeters-washington.org or call 636.239.6176.

THANK YOU! *(Some thank you notes may be edited)*

Dear Bem Church,

Thank you for the box of Halloween goodies. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness in my first year of college!

Sincerely, Sarah Parker

To My Church Family,

Thank you so much for your welcome and kindness bestowed on my family and me. What a glorious day last Sunday; my family and I will remember always. I'm sure Bob's spirit was around outside the church listening to the music and the bells tolling. Thank you so much also for the surprise gift. I will stay in touch.

Sincerely, Gerrie Corzine

St. John's UCC

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Helping Hands Outreach Center, I wish to thank the members of your congregation for their continuing very generous support of our food pantry operation, and for your October donations. The need continues to mount. In September we served 327 households (919 individuals) plus emergency situations. We are grateful for your kindness! **-Sincerely, Andrew J. Michel, President; Helping Hands Outreach Center**

DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Flowers: Bernice Stockglasner

| | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|--|
| Nursery Workers: 11/29: Tammy Baxter & Dawn Kreter | Greeters: Darin Layman Family | Lay Reader: Nancy Carl | Acolytes: Bryan Aytes & Joey Oberle |
| 12/6: Allison Baker & Sara Whelan | Leann Smith/Fern Kramme Families | Nancy Jenkins | Nathan Lewis & Katie Havelka |
| 12/13: Crystal Blankenship & Dana Chapman | Dennis Frahm/ Danny Baxter Families | Brenda Sieckmann | Andrew Huellinghoff & Devin Baxter |
| 12/20: Nancy Jenkins & Suzan Wilson | Malvern Huebner Family | Christina Aytes | Joey Oberle & Nathan Lewis |
| 12/27: Brenda Sieckmann & Sharon Bacon | Judene Huellinghoff Family | Curtis Aytes | Devin Baxter & Katie Havelka |

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

12/3- Hulda Eisenhauer, Heath Buschmeyer, Riley Graham, Keigan Glaser;
 12/4- Austin Lewis, Connor Lewis; 12/6- Dyana Glaser, Greg Kohrmann, Amber Randall;
 12/7- Christina Aytes, Layne Kreter; 12/9- Allison Czeschin, Nathan Dotson; 12/11- Carole Dotson;
 12/12- Bill Eisenhauer, Jr.; 12/14- Tammi Branson; 12/16- Brad Czeschin, Lindsey Oberle;
 12/17- Alisen Chapman, Darren Wilson; 12/19- Wayne Horstmann; Pam Koepke;
 12/20- Erin West, Will Lauth; 12/25- Brandi Lauth; 12/26- Tom Kohrmann; 12/27- Tom Dotson;
 12/28- Virginia Buschmeyer, Steve Adams Jr.; 12/29- Margaret Frahm;
 12/30- Abby Koepke, Vicki Branson; **...Happy Birthday!**

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH

12/9- Brooke & Adam Johnson; 12/12- Margot & Hero Schmidt,
 12/13- Erin & Drew West; 12/24- Mary & Bruce Chapman;
 12/26- Virginia & Wayne Buschmeyer, Jackie & Aaron Kohrmann, Vicky & Kevin Huebner;
 12/27- Carole & Sonnie Dotson, Jackie & Bill Mitchell; 12/29- Sharon & Dale Adkison
...Happy Anniversary!

ATTENDANCE

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Date: | Worship/Sunday School: | Date: | Worship/Sunday School: |
| Sunday, October 4 | 147/52 | Sunday, November 1 | 182/51 |
| Sunday, October 11 | 94/47 | Sunday, November 8 | 140/54 |
| Sunday, October 18 | 126/53 | Sunday, November 15 | 108/58 |
| Sunday, October 25 | 129/42 | Sunday, November 22 | |
| Total: | 496/194 | Total: | 430/163 |
| Average: | 124/49 | Average: | 143/54 |

NEW ADULT CLASS FORMING- YOUNG & YOUNG AT HEART

A new Sunday School class for Adults is forming! This class is geared towards the younger adults in the congregation; but anyone is welcome, as long as you are young at heart! They will be gathering in the basement by the windows each Sunday during Advent at 9:00. The format is very casual and conversational; stress-free and informal. Come down Sundays in Advent and check it out!

BEM CHURCH FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| General Fund | | Etta Licklider VBS Fund Savings | |
| Balance as of 10-15-09 | \$2223. | Balance as of 11-15-09: | \$805 |
| Income: | | Etta Licklider VBS Fund CD | |
| Offering | \$9415 | Balance as of 11-15-09: | \$10,591 |
| Interest | \$31 | Pastor's Housing Equity Fund | |
| Tower | \$550 | Balance as of 11-15-09: | \$2207 |
| Fundraisers | \$754 | Quilters | |
| Misc. | <u>\$231</u> | Balance as of 10-15-09 | \$2996 |
| Total Income | \$10,981 | Expense: Supplies | (\$203) |
| Expense: Budgeted Items | (\$9449) | Balance as of 11-15-09 | \$2996 |
| Balance as of 11-15-09 | \$3755 | Pairs and Spares | |
| Building Fund | | Balance as of 10-15-09 | \$2236 |
| Balance as of 10-15-09 | \$1337. | Expenses: | |
| Income: | \$5 | Donation to CROP Walk | \$58 |
| Expense: maintenance | (\$40) | Donation to Mo-Val | \$200 |
| Balance as of 11-15-09 | \$1303. | Donation to Church | \$74 |
| Cemetery Fund | | Misc. | <u>\$10</u> |
| Balance as of 10-15-09 | \$1623 | Total Expenses | (\$342) |
| Income: | | Balance as of 11-15-09 | \$1894 |
| Envelopes | \$109 | Mission & Social Concerns | |
| Apple Butter | \$926 | Balance as of 10-15-09 | \$1867 |
| Interest | <u>\$203.</u> | Income: Rada Sales | \$88 |
| Total Income | \$1238 | Lydia's House Pin Sales | <u>\$240</u> |
| Expense: | <u>(\$201.)</u> | Total Income | \$328 |
| Balance as of 11-15-09 | \$2660 | Expenses: Rada, Bounce Hse. | (\$493) |
| Special Offering Fund | | Balance as of 11-15-09 | \$1702 |
| Balance as of 10-15-09 | \$1256. | Youth Fellowship Account | |
| Income: | | Balance as of 10-15-09 | \$276. |
| Mission Fund | \$745. | Income: | \$46 |
| Helping Hands Food Pantry | \$40 | Balance as of 11-15-09 | \$322. |
| CROP | \$25 | Hospitality Committee | |
| Lydia's House | \$182 | Balance as of 10-15-09 | \$934 |
| ECH-Every Child's Hope | \$165 | Income: | \$200 |
| Mo-Val Special Offering | <u>\$75</u> | Expenses: | (\$143) |
| Total Income | \$1232 | Balance as of 11-15-09 | \$991 |
| Disbursements: | (\$1645) | Hospitality Committee Savings | |
| Balance as of 11-15-09 | \$843. | Balance as of 11-15-09: | \$584 |
| Memorial/Gift Fund | | | |
| Balance as of 10-15-09 | \$8444 | | |
| Income: | \$284 | | |
| Disbursements: | (\$140) | | |
| Balance as of 11-15-09 | \$8588 | | |

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT: HOW ARE WE DOING IN 2009?

Year to Date General Fund income as of November 15, 2009 was **\$124,958**; year to date goal for that time frame was **\$126,500**. There are six Sundays left in 2009. In order to meet our income goals, we need to bring in \$18,500 in those six weeks; that averages just over \$3000/week!

What is going on in the United Church of Christ? Check it out at www.ucc.org!

A FAREWELL CELEBRATION AT THE WINERY!

Rev. Krista Betz has been an Acting Associate Conference Minister of the Missouri Mid South Conference for the past two years, with special relationship to the Eastern Association; and her relationship with churches in the Eastern Association goes even further back than that. God is Still Speaking in Krista's life, and now Krista has accepted God's call to be the Interim Conference Minister for the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the United Church of Christ; she starts January 1. There will be a farewell party for Krista on November 29th from 2:00-5:00 at Robbler Winery in New Haven, MO. For more info, talk to Pastor Rick.

SAVE YOUR INKJET CARTRIDGES!

What are you doing with your inkjet cartridges when they are empty? Are you just throwing them away? If so, please put them in a plastic bag and bring them to church! We are able to get discounts on our office supply purchases based on inkjet cartridges returned for recycling; a win-win situation! We help the environment with less plastic in landfills, and we help our church budget as well. We are currently getting \$3 for every ink jet cartridge returned! If we get enough cartridges donated, we could cover the cost of our paper, ink and offices supplies this way! But we need your help. There is a box in the sofa room at church for collecting these cartridges. Thank you for your support! *(We just bought two cases of copy paper- 24 reams- and thanks to this program these two cases were FREE! \$77.98 savings!)*

THE BEM CHURCH COPIER FUND!

Introducing a new opportunity to participate in the ministry of Bem Church— through donations to a newly established copier fund! We are getting to the point where, in the next 12-18 months, we will be replacing the copier that is currently in our church offices. The Bem Church Council has established this copier fund to ensure that when the time comes to make a decision, funds will be available.

Donations to this fund can be in memory or in honor of a loved one; the result of a tithe on “found” money like a sale, an inheritance or another bequest; or just as a gift over and above your usual faithful financial stewardship. Just write “copier fund” on a white pew envelope or your regular weekly envelope and signify the amount. Thank you!

2009 OPERATION CHRISTMAS

Operation Christmas is a community project that works! Because of the incredible generosity of area donors, this annual event has been very successful in bringing holiday cheer to households who otherwise might have a very meager Christmas. Last year, Operation Christmas served 1016 individuals from 340 households. Bem Church traditionally adopts 10 families thru Operation Christmas. Carole Dotson, in the church office, has family lists to distribute. Contact Carole today to Adopt a Family thru Operation Christmas!

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

Bem Church will be ringing the Salvation Army Bell again this year on Saturday, December 5; Friday, December 11; and Thursday, December 17th from 10:00am-6:00pm each day. Are you and your family signed up yet? Sheets are in the back of the Sanctuary. We need you! 85% of all funds distributed stay right here in the Owensville Community to be disbursed by the Owensville/Rosebud Ministerial Alliance. Come ring in some cheer this Christmas season!

ST. JOHN'S UCC, BEM- DECEMBER 2009 CALENDAR

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES- 10:00am; SUNDAY SCHOOL- 8:45am

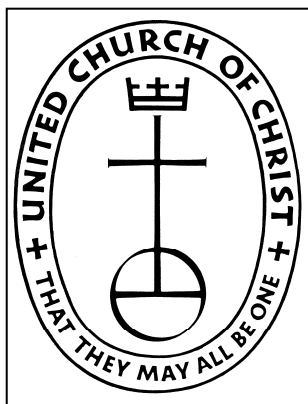
| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------|
| November 29 th - | First Sunday of Advent/Confirmation Sunday | 10:00am |
| | Rev. Krista Betz's farewell party in New Haven | 2:00-5:00pm |
| November 30 th - | Choir Practice | 7:00pm |
| | Mission Committee Meeting | 6:30pm |
| December 1 st - | Grape Country Cluster Meeting at Ebenezer Stone | 7:00pm |
| December 2 nd - | Confirmation | 5:00pm |
| December 3 rd - | Christian Education Committee | 6:30pm |
| December 5 th - | Breakfast with Santa at Masonic Hall | 7:00-10:00am |
| | Salvation Army Bell Ringing | 10:00am-6:00pm |
| December 6 th - | Second Sunday of Advent/Confirmation Class First Communion 10:00am | |
| | Advent Workshop w/soup lunch | 11:15am |
| | Nobby's Asian Meal at Farmer's Merchant Café | 4:00-7:00pm |
| December 7 th - | Choir Practice | 7:00pm |
| December 9 th - | Owensville/Rosebud Ministerial Alliance at FBC | 10:30am |
| | Confirmation | 5:00pm |
| December 11 th - | Salvation Army Bell Ringing | 10:00am-6:00pm |
| December 13 th - | Third Sunday of Advent/Bring a Friend Sunday | 10:00am |
| | Youth Rally | 5:00-7:00pm |
| December 14 th - | Council Meeting/Choir Practice | 6:30pm/7:00pm |
| December 15 th - | Operation Christmas Gift Wrapping | 9:00am-??? |
| December 16 th - | Confirmation/Women's Fellowship | 5:00pm/6:00pm |
| December 17 th - | Salvation Army Bell Ringing | 10:00am-6:00pm |
| | Pastor Rick at Helping Hands Food Pantry | 11:00am |
| December 19 th - | Open House at Parsonage | 3:00-7:00pm |
| December 20 th - | Fourth Sunday of Advent/Choir Cantata | 10:00am |
| | Sunday School Christmas Program | 6:00pm |
| December 24 th - | Christmas Eve Worship | 5:00pm & 11:00pm |
| December 28 th - | Mission Committee | 7:00pm |

QUILTING EVERY TUESDAY 9:00AM-2:00PM: BRING SACK LUNCH

YOGA EVERY MONDAY: 6:00-7:30pm

St. John's United Church of Christ
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Owensville, MO 65066

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To everyone in the home of: